

N. Y. CENTRAL FLYER WRECKED

FOUR MEN KILLED AND MANY
OTHERS INJURED.

Mistake of a Woman Telegrapher Caused
a Head-on Collision With a Freight
Train—All of the Killed Are Trainmen
—Edward Dockstader Severely Injured.

UTICA, N. Y., July 4.—By the substitution
of the numeral 5 for the figure 1 by a woman
telegrapher on the Utica and Black River
Division of the New York Central when
she wrote out a message for a train crew,
four men were killed and many persons
were injured in a wreck about two miles
north of Boonville at 5:32 this morning.

The collision was between a freight train,
southbound, and the Thousand Island
Special, drawn by two locomotives and
traveling north toward Clayton on the St.
Lawrence River. This train leaves New
York each evening during the summer
season at 7:15 o'clock and to-day was
crowded with New Yorkers bound for the
north country to enjoy a brief holiday.
They occupied seven Pullman sleepers, and
with the exception of Edward Dockstader
suffered no injuries worth mentioning.
Dockstader sustained severe injuries to his
back and is at St. Luke's Hospital in this
city, where late to-night he was resting
comfortably. He will be out within a few
days. The other New Yorkers continued
their journey to the St. Lawrence River this
evening. These four men were killed:

A. RIBBER, Utica, engineer.
S. G. O'BRIEN, Utica, engineer.
A. W. HADAM, Utica, brakeman.
J. H. MICHAEL, Edison, fireman.

The injured are:

F. W. BURNETT of Watertown, fireman;
left thigh and arm fractured, internal
injuries; will die.

C. D. SCHAFER of Watertown, compound
fracture of left leg below the knee; will lose
the limb.

GEORGE STOCKER of Utica, ankle broken
and internal injuries.

GEORGE HUGHES, engineer, scalp wound,
right arm fractured above and below elbow.

W. H. WOOD of Utica, back and hip injured.

J. W. CANNON of Utica, right ankle broken.

E. DOCKSTADER of New York city, back
severely injured.

George C. Boldt, proprietor of the Waldorf-
Astoria, New York city, was one of the pas-
sengers who escaped uninjured. After the
crash he jumped from his berth and was one
of the first to minister to the injured. He
opened his grip and provided whiskey to all
those in need. It was of Mr. Boldt that one
of the engineers, lying on the track and
in a dying condition, asked:

"Did I make a mistake in my orders?"

The New Yorker ran and sought out the
conductor, who bent over the dying man and
drew the order from his pocket. Holding it
where the dying man could see it he said:
"It wasn't your fault. I here's the order."

Then the engineer breathed his last.

Mr. Boldt helped to carry the body from
the track and then went to the aid of others
who were injured.

General Superintendent Christie of the R.
and O. W. system, in discussing the ac-
cident with THE SUN reporter to-night, said
that as far as investigation had been made
the crews of both trains had been exonerated
of blame for the accident and that from all that could be ascertained
the error had clearly been made at Lyons Falls.
Mr. Christie said that the night
operator there, Mrs. E. B. McLean, made
a mistake of forty minutes in copying a
message from the office of the Watertown
despatcher to be given the engineer and
conductor on the freight train out of Ogden-
sburg and then approaching "west,"
as all trains sent out of there are designat-
ed, Mrs. McLean is 29 years old and had
been employed at the Lyons Falls station
only a short time. The station at
Lyons Falls has been operated for ten miles
beyond Boonville and at night is the next
"open station."

Passenger trains ordinarily pass traffic
of the first class have precedence over
everything else, but it was shown that
train No. 55, or the Thousand Island special,
was two hours late in starting from Utica
on account of late connections from New
York, and the despatcher's office in Watertown
was aware of the time it had been
making along the line. This being the case,
it was decided to let the freight have another
ten minutes and send it along to Boonville,
which apparently it was believed the train
might reach just after the passenger got there.

Train Despatcher James O'Leary sent the
order from Watertown to the Lyons Falls
station for the freight crew. An order was
also sent to Remsen to be given the passen-
ger crew, directing it to "wait at Boonville
until 5:15, and then proceed west." The
message, it was learned, was given to the
despatcher at 5:15, and the contents of the
despatch were likewise sent to Boonville,
where the Thousand Island special was to
wait until 5:15, it being figured that it would
get there before that hour.

The message that the Lyons Falls operator
was directed to give the conductor on the
freight train proceeding toward Boonville
was said by Mr. Christie to be:

"No. 55 will wait at Boonville until 5:15
for No. 90."

The message actually given to the freight
conductor read:

"No. 55 will wait at Boonville until 5:35
for No. 90."

A difference of 20 minutes in a brief sen-
tence. The substitution of a 5 for a 1,
according to the official explanation of the
accident, cost four men their lives, painfully
injured others and caused a big property
damage.

The order given Train 55 at Remsen was
worded as the Watertown despatcher in-
tended it should be, and gave directions for
it to remain at Boonville until quarter past 5.
But when the passenger reached there it was
already twenty-five minutes past 5. As the
time at which he was told to wait had gone
by, the crew was required to pay no more
attention to the order, according to the
established railroad custom, as officially
explained. So the Thousand Island special
passed Boonville and continued on its way,
as it had a right to do with no orders refer-
ring to a wait later than 5:15.

A thorough investigation of all the cir-
cumstances attending the receipt and copy-
ing of the message from Watertown and
Lyons Falls will be made. During the
movement of the troops to and from Pine
Plains the work of despatching trains on
the Black River division has been largely
given to the Watertown office. No mishap
previous to the terrible accident to-day
had occurred during the change.

Sup. Christie said to-night that it had

been found that on every record except the
copy sent to have been given to the
Lyons Falls station to the freight conductor
the time for the passenger train's wait at
Boonville said "5:15." It was believed that
possibly the operator had misread the mes-
sage or part of it as it came in and tried
to memory in transcribing it. In regard to
the copy actually handed over to the freight
crew it was the understanding that it
was in reality "copy" of the real order
and was not a carbon tracing of the original
despatch as taken down when its ticking
caught the attention of the operator in the
Lyons Falls office. The original copy, Sup.
Christie was informed by Mrs. McLean, had
been destroyed or thrown away.

Among those who were on the passenger
train and who escaped with severe shaking
up but no injuries was Charles R. Skinner,
a former State Superintendent of Schools
and at present a resident of New York city.
Mr. Skinner formerly resided in Watertown
and was on route to that city when the
wreck occurred.

"I awoke near Boonville," he said, "where
the train stopped for a minute or so. About
a mile and a half beyond Boonville I was
awakened by the sudden application of the
air brakes. The jolt awakened most every
one in the train and there was a sudden
scrambling from the berths, the passengers
of both sexes getting out to see the cause of
the trouble. The crash of glass followed,
the wheels seemed as if they were coming
crash occurred and piled from the coaches.
"When I got out of the coach I saw the
extra baggage car turned bottom side up
in the Black River Canal. The combination
car was half way down the canal bank on
its side. There were about twenty persons
in this car and they were helped out through
the windows as rapidly as possible. The day
coach was badly smashed and the men
and women were scrambling from the
coach, in considering the terrible accident
I think that those in the train acted with
a marked degree of coolness, and there
was not much shouting, though some of
the women were inclined to be hysterical
when they saw the dead and the wounded. I
found Engineer Rieber and Engineer O'Brien
dead beside their engines."

"Among the New Yorkers who were on
the train were George C. Boldt, the proprie-
tor of the Waldorf-Astoria; Thomas Wheeler,
one of the directors of the Standard Oil
Company; Alexander Robb, a well known
New Yorker, and Norris Oliphant, who is
well known both in the metropolis and
among the Thousand Islands, where the
family has a beautiful summer residence.
Mr. Boldt and Mr. Oliphant were among the
first to take off their coats and assist in
the work of rescue. Mr. Boldt, especially, was
useful, plunging into the midst of the wreck
and helping to extricate those who were
the most injured."

RAID ON THE FIRE BUFFS.

King of Them All and Eleven Others Ar-
rested at Croker's Request.

So many persons hang about the door of
Fire Headquarters in Great Jones street
that Chief Croker, fearing that some one
will get hurt, has decided to have them
kept away.

Repeated warnings failing of effect, last
night the Chief had Acting Captain Dom-
monick Henry and four detectives stationed
near the firehouse.

When the Chief saw that the night
beats came in Henry and his men collared
twelve men and took them to the night
court, where they were fined \$1 apiece.

Vincent Dowling of 17 Broadway, Brook-
lyn, was one of those arrested. Dowling is
known as king of the buffs and is often seen
at fires.

KERMIT ROOSEVELT HAS A FALL.

Tumbled From His Horse While Carrying
the Dummy in a Manikin Race.

GRIZZARD, N. Y., July 4.—Kermit Ro-
osevelt had a bad tumble from his horse at
the annual equestrian sports at Major Wad-
sworth's home in the Genesee Valley to-day.
While he was carrying the dummy in a
manikin race, his horse fell and he was
thrown to the ground.

Young Roosevelt was taking part in the
manikin race and was carrying the dummy
across his back. When half way across
the course and while he was putting in his
best looks the dummy started to slide. In
an instant Kermit was thrown to the ground
and the manikin, weighing 100 pounds, fell
on top of him. The boy was conscious, but
he was badly hurt. His horse was
shaken up, but he got back to the arena
and Kermit had to drag the dummy a quarter
of a mile back to the starting point.

JOHN G. HECKSCHER DEAD.

Father-in-Law of the Mayor—Fired in a
Famous Duel.

John Gerard Heckscher, father of Mrs.
George B. McClellan, died of apoplexy late
yesterday afternoon at his home, 18 West
Eighty-eighth street. Mr. Heckscher had
been traveling in Europe and had been
in New York for several days. He was
attacked while he was at home and died
at 10:15. He was 78 years old and had
been ill for some time.

Mr. Heckscher was the son of Gen. Charles
A. Heckscher and was about 78 years old. He
fought through the civil war. His first wife
was Miss Whitney, a granddaughter of
Stephen Whitney. There were two daugh-
ters by this marriage, Mrs. McClellan and
Mrs. Winthrop Jr.

Henry Winthrop Gray and Mr. Heckscher
were great friends as young men. Mrs.
Gray was Marie Travers, a daughter of
William R. Travers, the banker and wit.
In 1873, after a quarrel between Heckscher
and Gray in front of the old Union Club,
at Eighteenth street and Fifth avenue, in
which quarrel a blow was struck, a challenge
to a duel passed and the duel was fought
in Canada. The late Carroll Livingston
acted as one of the seconds in the duel,
which came to nothing, as Gray, who had
the first shot, missed, and Heckscher is
said to have fired in the air. A divorce
followed and Mrs. Gray went to live with
her father. After the death of Mr. Heckscher's
wife he married Mrs. Gray.

The second Mrs. Heckscher died six years
later and then Mr. Heckscher died at his
home. He was a member of several clubs and
a director of the Knickerbocker Trust Com-
pany.

Take home a bottle of FRENCH 800 BOTTLES
for suppers and other uses.—Ad.

TAFT CALLS PEACE MEETING

MURRAY CRANE, HEMENWAY AND
MCKINLEY TO VISIT HIM.

Choice of Hitchcock as Chairman to Wait
Upon the Smoothing Over of the Chi-
cago Troubles—Candidate Gelfs in the
Rain—Pleased With His First Trip.

HOT SPRINGS, Va., July 4.—William H.
Taft has started in to iron out the wrinkles
left in the Republican situation as a result
of the Hitchcock methods at Chicago. Mr.
Taft has invited Senator Murray Crane
from Massachusetts, Senator Hemenway
and James B. Watson of Indiana and Con-
gressman W. B. McKinley of Illinois to
meet him here. Senator Crane will arrive
tomorrow morning. Mr. McKinley will
get here on Monday and the two Indiana
men will be here on Tuesday.

This means that Mr. Taft will have con-
ferred with all the factions that are inclined
to resent the Hitchcock steam roller
methods before the sub-committee of the
Republican national committee meets here
on the 8th to select a chairman.

Senator Hemenway and Congressman
Watson were among the most faithful
guardians of the Fairbanks boom at the
Chicago convention, and Congressman
McKinley was the manager of the Cannon
boom.

Senator Crane was the leader of the so-
called reactionaries in their fight against
the Roosevelt anti-injunction programme.
All of these men sent telegrams to Mr. Taft
after his nomination assuring him of their
loyal support, and he is availing himself of
these offers in asking them to come on to
Hot Springs.

Mr. Taft, ever since he was first sent to
straighten out the mess in the Philippines,
has been known as a conciliator, a man
who can bring peace out of a heap of trouble.
That he intends to practice his art on visi-
tors here for the next three days is certain,
and the result as Mr. Taft's friends see it
is bound to be satisfactory.

The belief here is that the conferences with
the Indiana, Massachusetts and Illinois men
foreshadow the selection of Frank H. Hitch-
cock as national chairman at the meeting
of the sub-committee on Wednesday.

There has never been any doubt that Mr.
Taft had votes enough to become
chairman if he wanted to force the issue, but it
has been his desire first to allay the irritation
caused by some of the happenings at the
Chicago convention.

In addition to the feeling of resentment
harbored by some of the allies against
Hitchcock Mr. Taft has had to face the
delicate situation of Ohio growing out
of the election of Arthur Vorys to become
chairman. The Ohio situation, it is said,
is in a fair way to being smoothed out since
Mr. Vorys's conference with Mr. Taft in
Washington. Mr. Vorys knows that he
will not be named as chairman.

Congressman Theodore E. Burton of
Ohio has been here since Mr. Taft arrived,
but there have been few conferences be-
tween them and everything indicates that
the Ohio situation is better than it has been
at any other time since the meeting of the
sub-committee in Cincinnati. It remains for
Mr. Taft, however, to placate the feelings of
some of the allies, and that is apparently
what he is going to try to do.

Further indication that Hitchcock will
ultimately be named as chairman is found
in the report that he is coming here to see
Mr. Taft. Mr. Taft would not say to-day
when Mr. Hitchcock was coming, but it
will probably be after the meeting of the
sub-committee on July 8. It is probable
that Congressman McKinley's visit to Hot
Springs has something to do also with the
selection of treasurer of the national com-
mittee to succeed Cornelius N. Bliss. Mr.
McKinley has been frequently mentioned
for the place, and Mr. Taft made plain on
Saturday after his talk with William Nelson
Cronwell that Mr. Bliss would not again
accept the place under any circumstances.

This was a wet Fourth for the candi-
dates. It began raining here about noon
and kept up all day. Mr. Taft was out on
the golf course about a mile from the hotel
when the downpour began, and he was
soaked when he came back. The first in-
stant he came in, he seemed to enjoy the
duking. Mr. Taft is not an expert golfer,
but he is by no means in the "dub" class.
He gave Frank B. Kellogg, the
best hustler, a cipee race. Mr. Kellogg
won 3 up, the score for the eighteen holes
being Taft, 101; Kellogg, 102.

When it came to plain ordinary leg work,
though, Mr. Taft with his 367 pounds had
the Minnesota trust buster skinned.

Mr. Taft is greatly pleased with the
reception which he got at stations along his
journey from Washington. Probably the
most interesting reception was at Covington,
twenty-five miles from here. It oc-
curred near midnight. Mr. Taft and Na-
tional Committee Chairman Kellogg were both
asleep in one chair. The first instant
Mr. Taft had of a crowd outside was a loud
thumping on the window pane near his
head. He jumped and a chorus of voices
sang out: "Come on out! Come out! Bill
Taft!"

The candidate rubbed his eyes, looked at
his watch and decided that it was too late.
"Wake up! Wake up!" shouted the Covington-
ites. But still Mr. Taft made no motion.
"If we don't get a talk we'll vote for Bryan,"
shouted somebody in the crowd, and that
caught him. Peering through an open
window into the darkness he said, "Do you
folks always stay up as late as this?"

"Nope," said a voice in the darkness,
"only on special occasions."

"Is this the end of the division?" asked
Mr. Taft for lack of something else to say.
"No, this is the end of this is this is
Covington," said another voice.

Mr. Taft conversed for five or ten minutes
with the voices in the darkness, and
finally one of them said: "Well, I reckon
you are elected down hyer in this town
right now," and the crowd shouted its
approval.

OFFICERS TO WEAR SWORDS.

Even in Battle, German War Ministry De-
clines—Moral Effect Before Safety.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

Berlin, July 4.—It is stated that the Min-
istry of War has decided that hereafter
when officers are on active service they
shall wear swords. These ornamental
weapons were discarded after the South
African war and rifles were substituted.
The Japanese war led to a reconsideration
of the decision. The Japanese experience
showed that the moral value of the sword
in distinguishing the officer from the pri-
vate outweighed the advantage of the rifle,
which prevented an officer from being
singled out by snipers.

KILLS SISTER WITH NEW GUN.

Milton Cummings, Trying Out Weapon,
Shoots Through Barn Door.

Jessie Cummings, 18 years old, was shot
and killed by her brother, Milton, 18, a
little after 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon
while playing in the barn at her home,
3800 Olivine avenue, The Bronx.

The boy was trying out a new gun and
was using the end of a rope for a target.
One of the bullets penetrated the barn
door on the second floor, where Jessie
and her playmates were, pierced the girl's
skull above her right eye and went into
the brain. Her body fell against the door,
which was not fastened, and dropped to
the yard. Her brother was so stunned
at the sight that he was several minutes
before he could raise an outcry.

Conceding that the queen of a little
neighborhood children's pinto party the
day before in Bronxwood Park, and sev-
eral children came in yesterday afternoon
to play some of the games again. A
shower started suddenly and Philip Cum-
mings, Jessie's father, suggested that the
little girls continue playing in the shelter
of the barn, the upper floor of which had
been fitted up for a playhouse in bad
weather.

Milton had intended leaving to-day for
the Adirondacks for his vacation and was
practicing up for hunting feats. The rope
he was shooting at hung from the outer end
of a hoisting beam and was directly opposite
the door which led to the place where the
girls had gone.

A doctor who was summoned said that the
girl had been killed instantly. He notified
Coroner McDonald. Milton was arrested
and taken to the Wakefield police station,
but after the Coroner had heard the story
he released him in the custody of his father.

Jessie Cummings was to have had a Fourth
of July party for the neighbors' girls in the
evening. When the news of her death
spread fireworks in the vicinity were dis-
carded, and the boys and girls were dis-
cussed with a sorrowful heart. There is
another son besides Milton, Philip, Jr.

HAD TO LIVE IN A STABLE.

Destitute Woman and Three Children
Found in Straw of a Stall.

A woman and her three children were
found last night asleep in a stable stall at
601 Washington street, where they have
been living for a week. They were Mrs.
Alice Simmons, 33 years old; her two boys,
George, 11, and Thomas, 9, and a seven-
month-old baby, Ethel. The baby has a
very bad case of pneumonia.

Policeman Joseph Buck of the Charles
street station entered the ransackably stable
last night to see why the door was open.
A baby's cry came from the darkness of a
stall, so Buck lit a match. A woman sprang
to her feet with the baby in her arms. In
the straw behind her lay the two boys
asleep.

Buck picked up the youngest boy and
escorted the rest of the family to the station
house. Mrs. Simmons could hardly walk.
At the station she ate something and then
told her story. Her husband, she said, was
a violinist who had played in theatre or-
chestras. About a year ago he left her, and
recently he stopped sending her money.
She went to the Seaside Home, at Coney
Island, but on last Monday the two weeks
permitted her there ended and with the
three children she came back to Man-
hattan.

She slept along the piers and the river-
front for a night or two and then one night
found the stable door partly open and
squeezed her way in. She went out with
the boys, but she had no money to buy
clothes for the Seaside Home, at Coney
Island, but on last Monday the two weeks
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three children she came back to Man-
hattan.

E. C. CONVERSE ROBBED OF GEMS.

Jewelry Worth \$15,000 Taken From Hotel
Room and Returned.

LOS ANGELES, July 4.—Jewels valued at
\$15,000 were stolen last night from the
rooms of Edmund Cogswell Converse, Jr.,
of New York at the Hollywood Hotel, Hol-
lywood, while he and his family were at
dinner.

Within two hours of the discovery the
valuables were returned. A dozen police-
men and deputy sheriffs were at the hotel
an hour after the theft, and in some mys-
terious way the case of jewelry was smug-
gled into the Converse apartments while
the police were in the building. The work
is supposed to have been that of money
peddlers of the hotel who became alarmed
at the commotion and fearing to flee and
become an object of suspicion, returned
the valuables.

Converse, with his wife, child and a maid,
came to Hollywood two weeks ago.

Edmund C. Converse is the president
of the \$30,000,000 National Tube Company
and a son of the late James C. Converse
of Boston, who founded the National Tube
Works. At Converse Manor, Mr. Converse's
summer home in Greenwich, Conn.,
nothing was known of the robbery yester-
day. Only the servants are in the house
this summer.

FIREWORKS ALL OFF AT ONCE

Indian Harbor Yacht Club's Celebration
Quickly Ended.

GREENWICH, Conn., July 4.—At the In-
dian Harbor Yacht Club to-night a few
hundred dollars worth of fireworks exploded
at one time, the rockets, candles and every-
thing else shooting in every direction. A
crowd of a thousand yachtsmen, guests
and residents of Greenwich had gathered
to witness the display.

The fireworks were taken to the town
dock, about a hundred feet from the front
of the clubhouse, and three places were
best of when the explosion occurred.
The dock was packed, as were the piazzas
of the clubhouse, while close to shore were
many yachts and the fire was very hot.
No one was seriously hurt, but a
number of persons received minor injuries.

HEALTH INSPECTORS LAID OFF.

Vacation for 100 Saves Money for the
Department.

Dr. Walter Bessel, superintendent of the
Sanitary Bureau of the Department of
Health, announced yesterday that 100 in-
spectors had been laid off for this period
from July 1 to September 1. The appropria-
tion for the bureau is deficient, Dr. Bessel
said, and by letting these men go for a
time \$20,000 can be saved, retirement
which will keep the department within its
limit.

Most of the men affected are what are
known as school inspectors. Sixty were
laid off in Manhattan borough, thirty in
Queens, five in The Bronx and five in Rich-
mond. Their duties were to examine school
children to prevent the spread of conta-
gious disease. During the summer months
they usually have had assignments as regu-
lar health inspectors.

BRYAN OPENS WAR ON GUFFEY

CALLS HIM A BUSHWHACKER
WHO WOULD "BETRAY ME."

Doesn't Want Him on the National Com-
mittee and Says So Forcefully—Tom
Johnson Joins in Calling Guffey an
Undesirable—Day Given to Delegations.

LINCOLN, July 4.—Before 200 Penn-
sylvania delegates and Democrats at Fairview
to-day Mr. Bryan in a speech denounced Col.
J. M. Guffey and excommunicated him. He
said:

"It has been my custom not to take sides
in any contest between Democrats of any
State. The only reason why I have done
so in this case is that Mr. Guffey has delib-
erately and willfully conspired to defeat what
he knows to be the expressed will of the
Democrats of your State."

"You had a primary in which the candi-
dates who favored my nomination received
a large majority of the votes. When a
political boss assumes to defy and override
the expressed will of the party he shall never
be in the organization except over my pro-
test."

"I have notified Mr. Guffey that I would
regard his selection as unfortunate and
his membership on the national committee
as an embarrassment. When the people
declared that they wanted me as their
candidate I believe that they never in-
tended that a bushwhacker should be put
into my councils to betray me."

The Bryan Democratic League of Penn-
sylvania, who made up most of Mr. Bryan's
audience when he excommunicated Guffey,
came in on a special to-day. The leaders
are going to Denver to get Col.
Jim Guffey's scalp as national commit-
tee man and say they have a letter from Bryan
to the Pennsylvania delegation putting
Guffey, because of his alliance with the
money interests, on the undesirable list
once occupied by Roger Sullivan.

The scoring of Guffey at Bryan's hands
followed speeches by James Kerr, the
Bryan leader of Pennsylvania, who is a
candidate against Guffey for member
of the national committee, and George
C. Marshall of the same State, both of
whom declared Guffey to be a boss who
has no sympathy with the things for which
Mr. Bryan stands.

The delegation brought to Lincoln two
men who are proposed candidates for Vice-
President, William H. Berry, former State
Treasurer, elected by a fusion of the Demo-
crats and the Lincoln party in 1905, and
John Murphy of Pittsburgh, a real estate
man. A majority of the Pennsylvanians
regard Berry as good material for second
place, but Murphy's aspirations are de-
clared to be a joke.

"Have any of your people an idea that
Pennsylvania can be carried for the Demo-
cratic ticket if it gets the candidate for Vice-
President?" was asked of Berry.

"I haven't heard of it if there is such an
idea," he responded. "The odds are against
us, of course. However, the case is not
hopeless, and my friends think it would be
a great help and inspiration to success in
Pennsylvania if I should get the nomination."

Joseph S